the Link

Concordia University
Montreal, Quebec

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Tuesday, March 14, 1989

Stephen Lewis at Concordia

'Foreign students needed'

by Mike Orsini

Universities must remove the obstacles international students face when studying in Canada, former ambassador to the United Nations Stephen Lewis told a group of over 100 students at Concordia last night.

Flanked by former Concordia international student advisors, Fred Francis and Elizabeth Morey, Lewis said Canada's inability to form a "coherent public policy" has brought a decline in the number of international students studying at Canadian universities.

"Canada is the only country accepting fewer international students," he said. "There is no other country in the Western world where that is true. It's a shockingly capricious policy."

Morey, now the rector's special projects coordinator at Concordia, agreed with Lewis, saying Concordia's goal must be to ensure more students come here. The number of foreign students at Concordia has dropped from 2,000 to 800 this year, she said.

"We cannot sit back and hope people will feel comfortable," Morey said. "International students are very important to our reality."

Lewis urged universities to begin accepting students from developing countries, which he said are underrepresented. He said this would inject a "consciousness raising dimension" to university life.

"To have a larger number of international students means a greater understanding of the world," Lewis said.

"It (accepting students from developing countries) allows the university to become the throbbing hub of dissent, criticism and social change," he said to thunderous applause from the audience.

"That's what universities are supposed to do."

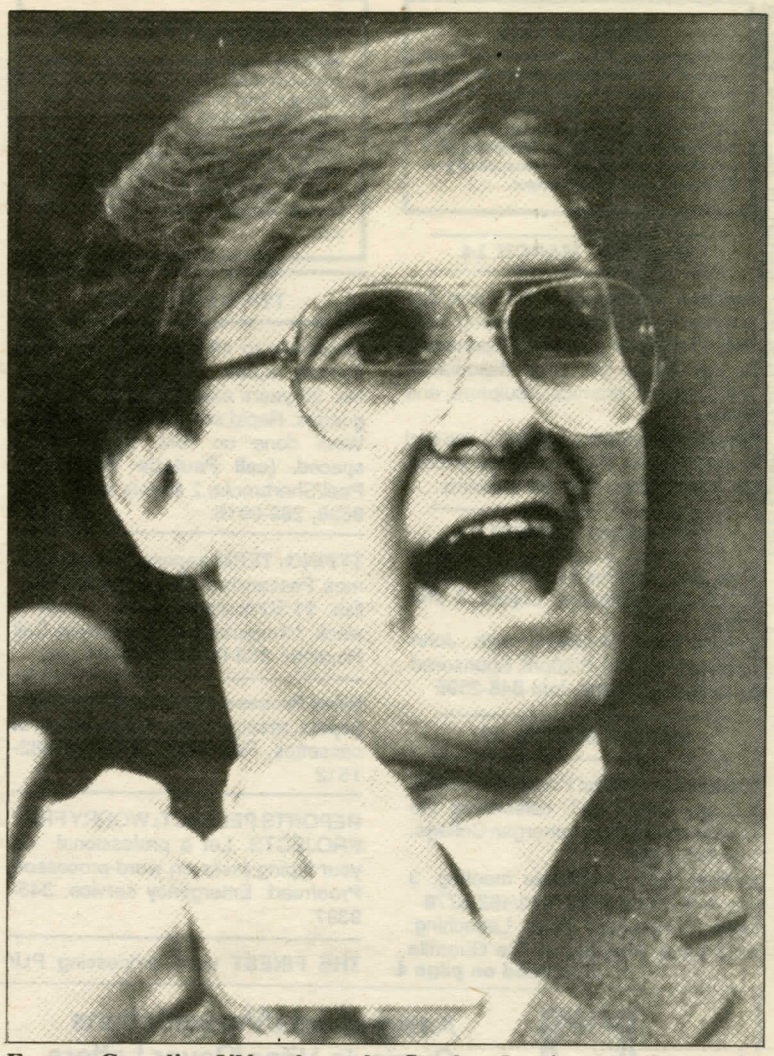
According to Lewis, most of Canada's foreign students come from the US, Malaysia, Hong Kong, China and Singapore. "Less than 20 per cent come from the developing countries of the world," he said.

Before discussing foreign students, Lewis reflected on his "traumatic" days as a Canadian diplomat. He expressed relief at being away from what he called "paleolithic neanderthals" at the United Nations' headquarters in New York.

"At the UN, they're engaged in self-infatuated diplomacy," he said.

It was there, Lewis said, where he surprisingly met many diplomats who graduated from Canadian universities with nothing but the utmost respect for Canada. This raises the profile of our universities, he said.

"International students, by their very presence, enhance standards," he said. "Without a strong number of them, the university will atrophy."



Former Canadian UN ambassador Stephen Lewis told a Concordia audience last night that Canada mustwelcome more foreign students.

Clubbing it out on the mezzanine

by Nantha Kumar

Two Concordia groups are vying for possession of the Hall building mezzanine to hold events scheduled to take place there on Thursday.

The Concordia Collective for Palestinian Human Rights (CCPHR) is holding an exhibit on the mezzanine Thursday. And AIESEC -- an international student commerce association -- is holding an auction there on the same day.

Members of CCPHR are upset because the dean of the commerce faculty, Steven Applebaum, has intervened on behalf of AIESEC over the booking mix-up.

According to Jackie Lamarche, who is in charge of allocating space, the area now righfully belongs to CCPHR because she sent AIESEC a memo on Nov. 29th 1988 informing them that the space was unavaliable.

Dream Auction orgainzer Marco Parisella yesterday said he did not receive the memo from Lamarche.

"About a month ago I went to re-confirm the booking (with Lamarche) and she said there was no problem."

Lamarche said she was willing to make a compromise by moving the Dream Auction to the lobby but organizers have turned down her suggestion.

"We hired a professional auctioneer and he might be distracted by the noise and chaos in the lobby," said AIESEC president Rubina Salim.

CCPHR coordinator Ra'ad Ra'ad said he was willing to relocate in the lobby, but university policy doesn't allow political exhibits on the Lobby.

"I am willing to make a compromise, even for a smaller place, but I will not cancel our event. We have made arrangements for a speaker from the Palestine Information Office in Ottawa," Ra'ad said.

Lamarche said she will meet both parties today and hopes to settle the matter.

Fuel Air Explosives

McGill FAE research continues

MONTREAL (CUP) — Recently released documents prove that for 10 years, two engineering professors have been perfecting a high-tech weapon at McGill University.

Mechanical engineering professors Roman Knystautas and John H. Lee have received about $1 million from the United States Air Force and the federal Department of National Defence (DND) since 1977 to develop Fuel Air Explosive Devices, according to the weekly American bulletin U.S. Government Reports and Announcements.

Weapons experts say Fuel Air Explosives, or FAEs, have a destructive capacity approaching that of nuclear weapons.

The bombs work on the principle that flammable liquids when mixed with air can be ignited, causing fatal blast pressures over a wide area.

McGill officials say the research is theoretical, abstract science — applied as easily to the gas pedal of a car as to weapons. They also maintain that DND is interested in the results only for the relatively harmless task of clearing minefields

"If it was weapons, I wouldn't like it," said McGill vice-principal of research Gordon Maclachlan.

Maclachlan described Lee and Knystautas "Canada's experts on explosions."

In 1977 the professors presented a report at a gas dynamics colloquium about "problems pertaining to feasibility of FAE III weapons at McGill in 1979."

A U.S government research bulletin says Lee and Knystautus, "reassessed the far field destructive potentialof FAE weapons" at McGill in 1979.

Lee and Knystautas currently have a $156,643 DND contract to "Assess the Effects of Fuel Air Explosions."

The DND, with its subsidiary the Defence Research Establishment Suffield (DRES), supplied many of Lee and Knystautas' more recent contracts.

Copies of current McGill contracts — many classified —were obtained through the Access to Information Act, and were heavily censorsed.

DND Information Officer Brian Laidlaw said he could not give details on the professors' present contract, but he did know it ends in September and will not be renewed.

A 1982 paper about detonation of fuel air explosive clouds,written by Lee, Knystautas, two DRES scientists and two researchers from Norway, stated the research had practical value for "accidental explosions and military applications."

"It's impossible to tell what it's about, but you can speculate. I would say they are creating small scale models for practical fieldwork experiments at Suffield," said McGill Project Ploughshares member Amy Kaler.

Two years ago, Kaler helped organize a campaign against fuel-air explosive research at McGill, which culminated in three people occupying Maclachlan's office for three days to demand the cancellation of the contracts.

Partly as a result of student pressure, McGill adopted a screening policy for military contracts last May. Professors are required to describe their research and have it approved byMaclachlan if, in their opinion, it will have "any negative or untoward consequence."

"Both professors Lee and Knystautas said they were not aware of any ill effects, they both wrote that to me, and I have all the documents here in my files," Maclachlan said.

"If they were doing (harmful research) and they said 'no' on the forms, they would be committing a felony. In the real world they'd get thrown in jail."

"At least they've introduced the principle of social responsibility, which they never would have admitted a year ago," said Kaler, "but there is no mechanism for review.

"Nobody sees those approval

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AGENDA

The Agenda is a FREE service to publicise Concordia-related events. Space priority is given to non-profit and student groups. Drop off your info at our office in room 649 in the Hall Building, or mail it in, indicating AGENDA on the envelope. Deadlines are 5 p.m. Friday for Tuesday's issue, and 5 p.m. Wednesday for Friday's paper.

TUESDAY MARCH 14

Political Statement in Art panel discussion, 6 pm, Fine Arts Building room 245, 1395 Rene-Levesque. Sponsored by the Fibres Students Association with Dept of Ceramics, Sculpture, and Fibres.

Sharon Carstairs on Meech Lake and Human Rights, 7:30 pm, Leacock room 26, McGill University. $2 students.

THURSDAY MARCH 16

Viva Jazz- Charles Ellison and Voices, F.C.Smith auditorium, Loyola, 8 pm, FREE.

Games and Numbers, with John Conway, Hall 110, 8:30pm. Sponsored by Science College. Info 848-2595

FRIDAY MARCH 17

Cultures in Conflict Panel Discussion, 1-3 pm, Bryan 207, celebrating the 10th Anniversary of Lonergan College. Info 848-2280.

QPIRG YES Committee meeting, 3 pm, Hall-333-6, info 7410/482-5778

Gala Cormorant Book Launching: Blue Sand, Blue Moon; The Guerrilla

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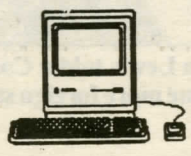

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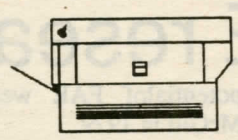

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At University of Toronto

Teaching assistants on strike

TORONTO (CUP) – More than a week into a strike by University of Toronto teaching assistants, top academic officials are pressuring the university to budge on some of the union's demands.

Both sides had been at the bargaining table since last June. Talks broke off January 20, and the TAs went on strike February 23.

The administration has refused to discuss the TAs main concerns, which include class size, the number of TAs and job security, "We implicitly said (to the TAs) if you want to go on strike over those issues then that's fine," said vice-provost David Cook.

At a meeting late last week, the university's department heads and faculty deans decided to ask the administration to at least go back to the table.

Union officials say they are more than ready for a long strike.The union, local 2 of the Canadian Union of Educational Workers, has a $400,000 strike fund – enough money to hold out at least until the end of the term.

Union officials Stephen Guy-Bray hopes the strike will end long before the fund runs dry.

Most students seem to support the strike, but won't go as far as missing classes or staying out of the libraries to show their support.

"I don't agree with picketing in front of libraries. Some students need to study," said Brenda Young, a third year physical and health education student.

"I feel bad when I try to cross lines to go to the library."

Jila Ghomeshi , a linguistics TA and picket captain said most students are honouring picket lines.

"A lot of students are stopping to talk because they want to know the issues. A lot of them assume it's about money, but when they realize that it's affecting them, they respond differently," she said.

Third year commerce student Alison Smith said she knows the issues involved but thinks the striking TAs have "blown things a bit out of proportion."

Administrators say any student or professor who boycotts classes during the TA strike may have to pay a price, but plans are in the works to loosen regulations for students in disrupted courses.

According to a memo distributed by provost Joan Foley to senior administrators, there may be some major changes in academic policy and as a result of the strike.

"The university will be seeking a suspension of its grading policy to allow changes in course requirements and grading regulations."

The memo said the academic term will not be extended.

If a professor decides it is too late to make up enough work to assess a grade, courses can be cancelled entirely.

Tuition fees would then be refunded. Professors could also grade students based on work completed before the strike.

But Foley said students wouldn't have much hope of winning an academic appeal if they missed classes to support the strike.

Foley would not comment on what will happen to professors who have cancelled classes.

"People are steadily angrier and angrier with the way the university treats its TAs," Guy-Bray said.

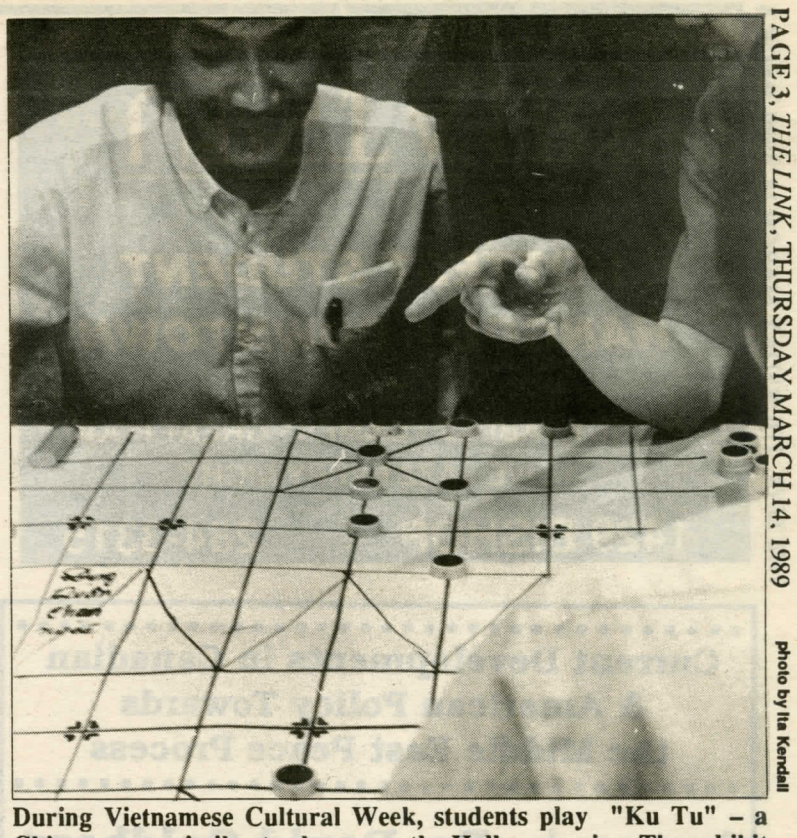

photo by Ita Kendall

During Vietnamese Cultural Week, students play "Ku Tu" – a Chinese game similar to chess – on the Hall mezzanine. The exhibit ends tomorrow.

McGill bomb research

continued from page 1

forms," she said. "They are not accessible, so it doesn't make people accountable.

And the policy is not retroactive. Because Knystautas and Lee were engaged in weapons research at McGill before May, the university cannot take any action against them, and since both DND contracts were signed before the regulations were passed, they are exempt.

Lee and Knystautas are also working on a $222,142 DNDcontract McGill's board of governors approved in May 1987 for a "Photographic Study of Mechanisms in Transition." The research centres on a high-speed camera's photographs of fuel airexplosions.

The two professors are also under contract with the Natural Sciences and Energy Research Council, and Energy, Mines, and Resources to study Transition and Transmission of Detonation in Fuel Air Clouds, the Influence of Turbulence on Dust Air Explosions, and Fundamental Problems in Combustion and Explosion.

Cancer-causing substance

Prof pushes for asbestos pullout

WINNIPEG (CUP) – A University of Winnipeg history professor is trying to convince administrators to remove the asbestos from above his head.

John McDermott, one of 22 professors and three secretaries with offices on the third floor of Ashdown Hall, was planning renovations in 1986 when he discovered the ceiling was packed with asbestos.

McDermott said there's "a lot of anxiety. The department would like to see the asbestos permanently removed as quickly as possible."

The ceiling in Ashdown Hall is covered with a latex rubber paint, a cheap way of isolating the carcinogen. But critics say that isn't good enough.

Removing the asbestos is an expensive process which entails closing down a building. Taking out the fibre from a U of W cafeteria last year cost half a million dollars.

Maintenance department head Norm Loat said the remaining asbestos poses no health problem. He said the levels in Ashdown Hall are under the Manitoba government's .01 fibers per cubic centimetre guideline -- ``far less than if you were to walk outside."

Loat called the asbestos ``non-friable", meaning that it does not consist of crumbling fibers.

But Suzanne Simard, director of Montreal's Asbestos Institute, said there is no `safe' limit of exposure under the current federal guidelines.

"Considering that the effects of asbestos, a carcinogen, don't become visible until approximately 20 years after the exposure, it's imperative that employers keep logs of employees who work in these areas," she said.

According to Loat, asbestos-containing areas in the university are monitored monthly. Some are not painted over, but Loat claims that the levels are not high enough to endanger people's health, and that administration is "following government regulations to a `T'".

Last summer the university removed asbestos from two buildings during renovations. Loat said that while the asbestos posed no health threat, the school's policy states that it be removed from all areas undergoing construction anyway.

Meanwhile a union official said in September that the University of Saskatchewan community is being exposed to illegally high levels of asbestos.

The Saskatchewan Department of Labour ordered the university to tear out its asbestos insulation in 1986.

But the carcinogen still hasn't been removed, according to Jacquie Toyne, Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Occupational Health and Safety chair.

"I am worried that our (university) members and the public are in danger because of the universitiy's failure to obey the law," said Toyne.

Provincial labour department inspectors found a "potentially dangerous asbestos problem" in one campus building full of classrooms, said George Scattergood, manager of the Hygiene Unit of the Occupational Health and Safety Branch.

Toyne said the walls of a cafeteria, bookstore and hockey rink are still laden with asbestos.

Scattergood also said that inspectors reported there is no program in place to inform workers of problem areas. CUPE's Toyne said members have never been told where the asbestos is located nor warned about dust during clean-up operations.

Students and staff at Concordia University were exposed to asbestos dust in September 1987 when renovations uncovered pipes coated with the insulator.

Federal legislation which came into effect in October guarantees an employee's right to information on hazardous work environments.

photo by Janet de Paiva

Cindy Patton, author of *Sex and Germs*, spoke at Concordia Saturday about gender, safe sex and sexual representation in the 1980s.

The CUSA saga continues

by Link newsstaff

Co-presidential candidate Zaheed Iftekar has not given up his fight to have CUSA's recent elections annulled.

Iftekar has sent a formal complaint to CUSA's judicial board outlining "election irregularities." In the letter from Iftekar's lawyer, CUSA is warned that if nothing is done about the elections in the next two weeks, he will take the matter to court.

"I am 100 per cent sure the election will be cancelled," Iftekar said yesterday. "I will fight till the end to establish law and order in CUSA."

Iftekar also refuted allegations made by CUSA's chief returning officer, Robert Douglas, that he had broken electoral rules. He said Douglas' accusations were "totally unfounded" and a "fabrication of allegations against me."

Earlier this month, two other complaints were filed with CUSA's judicial board about two other co-presidential teams which allegedly tried to buy votes in the elections.

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GENERAL

CRSG Presents Black Culture Radio Week, music, interviews, documentaries & commentary. March 13-19, 89.1 cable FM, Room 647 in the Hall buildiung. Info: 848-7401

WOMENS' LISTINGS

Concordia Women's Centre Programming Committee meeting, March 14, 6-8 pm, Women's Centre, 2020 Mackay

Cantata by Anne Cameron, March 14, 8 pm, NDG Maison de la Culture, 3755 Botrel, info 872-2157. FREE

The Ecstacy of Rita Joe, by George Ryga. March 8-11, & 14-18, 8 pm, Morrice Hall Theatre, 3485 McTavish, $4 for students. Info 398-6578.

Current Developments in Canadian & American Policy Towards the Middle East Peace Process

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Letters

The Link welcomes letters to the editors. Submissions should not exceed 400 words. Letters may be edited for length, grammar or spelling, or racist, sexist and homophobic content. All letters must be typed, double spaced and signed, and, must include a phone number for verification.

Unsigned and undated flyer untrue

to the editors,

This is an open letter to the university community:

An unsigned and undated flyer published on the letterhead of the Concordia Collective for Palestinian Human Rights (CCPHR) has been brought to my attention.

The flyer states that "the legality of the CCPHR's activities was brought into question when a group of pro-Israeli students and professors had two of our Collective members charged with 'promoting hatred against the Jewish people' under the university's non-academic code of conduct. The two students have since been completely exonerated, but this group persists in seeking to have them both expelled from the university..."

Since the collective has chosen to again repeat what it knows to be patently untrue, I have been left with no option but to respond.

Since, in this case, no report has as yet been submitted to the appropriate authority by the committee established to look into the complaints, the claim that anyone has been exonerated is untrue.

Furthermore, from the beginning, the persons who brought the complaint did so under the code of conduct (non-academic) because they could find no other university venue to deal with their complaint. They requested that the material, and the right to publish it, be questioned but that no academic measures be taken against those complained against. At no time have the complainants requested any type of personal sanction.

I have personally informed the parties concerned of the request of the complainants; yet, this is the second published article which has suggested a position of "martyrdom" brought about by the vindictiveness of the complainants.

To suggest that a measured response, such as the use of the code of conduct (non-academic), is intended to intimidate, is clearly to ignore the appeal in Article 11 of the code for "mutual consideration".

John Relton
Acting Code Administrator

Ambiguous editorial misunderstood

to the editors,

On behalf of the Concordia Collective for Palestinian Human Rights and the editors of the CCPHR bulletin I would like to set the record straight with regards to the front page of the February 1989 edition.

A misunderstanding has resulted from an ambiguity in the way the editorial was written. In saying the students were "exonerated," it was because we had confidence, not only in the system, but also in our defence, and the utter silliness and immaturity of the charges. We deeply apologise for the ambiguity in the word used.

However the use of the word "exonerated" left certain people with the impression that a decision had been rendered, and that we had been privy to special information. In other words, the use of the word "exonerated" had more to do with the confidence in our defence and in the sense of fairness of the hearing committee then with any specualtion on the decision the hearing committee has yet to render.

The point that "this group that persists in seeking to have them expelled from the university" also appeared. It is apparent that this group attempts to silence our criticism of Israel and that expulsion is what they had in mind.

To the best of our recollection this threat was made by one of the professors at the first hearing.

In addition, some professors who do not wish their names disclosed have revealed that the professor in question has spoken openly about exerting pressure to bringing about such an action. -- For how else but expulsion could they silence us in a university where the concept of different ideas flowing freely is not only necessary but also encouraged.

As Palestinians we are sensitive to the issue of expulsion. While we feel we have been "exonerated" by the quality and relevance of our defence, we never intended by using the term, to anticipate or to influence the findings of the commitee.

We wish to apologise to the hearing committee and to the university community for any inconveneince this misunderstanding has caused.

Ra'ad Ra'ad
CCPHR coordinator

Come out! Come out! Wherever you are! Everywhere you can!

Δ features Δ poetry Δ interviews Δ coming out stories Δ artwork Δ news Δ comments Δ Δ photography Δ rants Δ production help Δ ideas and support! En françias aussi! Δ for *the Link*'s

Gay and Lesbian Issue

We'd love to talk to you (H-649, 848-7405), ask for Elena, Minty or Andy. Deadline: March 15.
***All* lesbian, gay and bisexual people are happily invited to help - support - submit work - bring ideas**

Hearings should respect freedom of experession

to the editors,

Rumors continue to circulate widely about two hearings currently under way at Concordia -- one considering charges of anti-Semitic statements alleged to have been made by some Palestinian students, the other considering charges of misogynist and homophobic statements alleged to have been made by some engineering students.

Since I haven't read the offending statements, I have no basis for commenting specifically upon them. However, I do wish to comment about the general issue involved, which is freedom of expression.

As a libertarian, I am committed to the maximum tolerance of freedom of expression within society. As an academic, I have always cherished the belief that universities owe a special respect for such tolerance.

I realize that these beliefs derive from assumptions that can (and have) been designated as liberal bourgeois ideology. I realize that the free intellectual market no more really exists than the free market more generally. However, until we have achieved a more fully satisfactory basis for organizing and regulating behavior, I continue to be committed to such beliefs.

I am worried that some of my colleagues at Concordia may have made anti-Semitic, misogynist, or homophobic statements. I am more worried that my university is apparently considering, behind closed doors, the possibility of expelling the authors of such statements.

I believe that the hearings currently under way to decide these issues should be made public. I further believe that the issues should be decided with a maximum respect for the free expression of belief.

E. Pechter

Insurance plan "benefits"

to the editors,

Concordia students should think long and hard before they decide on a group insurance plan.

The one currently being proposed by CUSA includes the following "benefits" (according to posters around the university: "Dismemberment" and "Accidental Death".

Let's look at the fine print before we sign on the dotted line.

Walter Burns

Misdirected comments clarified

to the editors,

I would like to clarify the article entitled "$48 Health Plan Not Necessary," that appeared in the Friday, March 3 edition of *the Link* (vol. 9, No. 35).

In no way were my comments in the article directed at the firm Les Courtiers Cave-Malatesta. In my opinion this firm has a proven record for high standards and professionalism.

My comments were directed at the way CUSA had carried out their obligations — informing the student body of the entire package.

I hope this letter has gone a long way in clarifying the intentions of my statements.

Hernani Farias

Vote for positive change and student empowerment

to the editors,

Acid rain, the destruction of the ozone layer, energy conservation, pollution, toxic wastes — these are important issues that society must confront. If we do not tackle these and other problems of society, our future and our children's future will be grim. Perhaps we may not even have a future with increasing pollution, toxic wastes, acid rain and the destruction of the ozone layer. But if we students act now and do something to tackle society's problems, we can change that. You may ask, what can ordinary students do? The answer to that is very simple: Support QPIRG (Quebec Public Interest Research Group) by voting yes in the referendum for a refundable 20 cent per credit QPIRG fee. Twenty cents per credit is not much - for a full time student it is equivalent to eating lunch in the school cafeteria. QPIRG funds will be used to set up a full-time office, hire a professional staff, conduct research, and publish research reports. Students will democratically decide what public issues they want the research don on. All students will be able to participate in the research process and learn valuable citizenship skills. The results of this research will be the basis for action by students via the media, public forums, legislative forums and, if necessary, the courts. All students (including engineering and computer science students) must support the establishment of QPIRG-Concordia if they want positive changes in society and they believe in student empowerment.

Dilip Patel
Computer Engineering

Student security "outraged"

to the editors,

Concerning your article on the disbandment of student security I would like to elaborate and maybe attempt to highlight some points.

Our politicians at CUSA are, as usual, either ignorant of the facts of suffering from selective memory loss. Maybe if it is as they say, that student security was disbanded for the sake of efficiency. They should in fact disband themselves. They do have a rather solid basis for it.

Apparently 30% of student security are female whose average weight is approximately 115 lbs. The largest male weighs 190 lbs; in fact the average male is approximately 150 lbs. Please compare this to the North American average and relay this information to CUSA. Student security personnel are trained in first aid and crowd control, some have received self-defence training, and furthermore they know school regulations and are students themselves. Contrary to popular belief security guards are not trained in any skills; all they need is not to have any felony convictions and they are uniformed. In general, the security guards that work the parties are not regular university guards (40 hours/week) but part-timers who have no knowledge of the premises and for that matter are not even billingual. The ineptitude of the university system that has resulted in a substastantial lawsuit should not fall on the students' back. As usual, bureaucracy protects itself. This disbandment is an outrage to students whose responsibility of caring for themselves is put in doubt and is a reflection of our "elected" representatives as well as non-elected representatives. They are more interested in keeping their coat-tails clean than genuinely trying to solve this problem or for that matter help students and student life.

Those involved should be ashamed of being so self-righteous when speaking of certain issues and so vociferous when their rhetoric is chastising some ceasess, but when their students are deprived of an important income, we hear nothing. Let them use the same criteria they used to disband student security on themselves and on their feats. Big Brother lives again.

Robert Powell

Concordia University
Montreal, Quebec

Volume 9, Number 37
Tuesday, March 14, 1989

the Link

The Link is published every Tuesday and Friday during the academic year by The Link Publication Society Inc. Content is independent of the university and CUSA. Editorial policy is set by an elected board as provided for in *the Link* constitution. (A General Assembly will be held in October to elect the rest of the board.) Any student is welcome to join *the Link* and become a voting staff member. **Mailing address is: 1455 de Maisonneuve Blvd. W., Montreal, Quebec, H3G 1M8.** For national advertising *the Link* is a member of Campus Plus (Canadian University Press Media Services Limited), 124 Merton St., Toronto, Ontario, M4S 2Z2. Phone: (416) 481-7283. Typesetting by *the Link*. Printed by Inter-Hauf Developments. ***The Link* is a member of Canadian University Press, and the Ontario Community Newspapers Association.**

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Don't forget!
Link staff meeting Friday at 4:00 pm.

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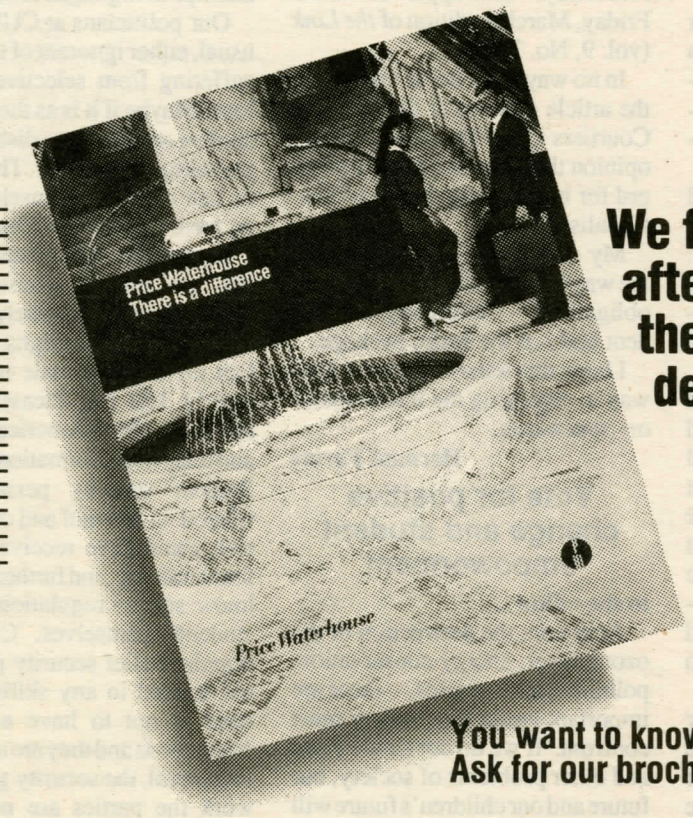

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SWAPing ethics for dollars

by Andy Tomec

LONDON, England — Depending on what time zone you've flown in from, it is anywhere between two and six in the morning back home, but a word like "tired" doesn't do justice to the dizzy disorientation and the nascent airline-booze hangover.

You're standing in the crowded lobby of a youth hostel in London's seedy Earl's Court district, fresh off the plane and ready to collapse into your pre-booked hostel bed. The young woman standing in front of you in line has just told the clerk to fuck off.

The young clerk returns the compliment. After a tense pause, pointing at his grease-pencilled booking sheet for emphasis, he says, "Look, I don't care what SWAP told you, we've no booking in your name, and we've absolutely no beds for at least two weeks."

Welcome to the first chapter of your "experience of a lifetime," courtesy of the Student Work Abroad Program (SWAP).

While your search for a hostel bed will likely be more fruitful than the University of Victoria student you've just read about, don't count on getting any sleep just yet — the Earl's Court hostel locks guests out of their rooms every day until fivep.m.

Since 1975, thousands of Canadian students have flocked to England, Australia, Ireland, Japan, and New Zealand under the aegis of the Canadian Federation of Students' SWAP program. What they have been seeking is a way to capitalize on a newly rediscovered secret of budget travel: work while you're there.

The concept of a "working holiday" may seem contradictory to some, but the opportunity to live and work in a foreign country has many advantages over conventional vacationing — not the least of which is money.

While few expect to come out of a working holiday earning a profit, holding a job makes it possible to stretch even the most-meagre travel budget into a lengthy stay. With a little planning, it is not difficult to parlay airfare and $1,000 into a three-month stay in London, including a few weeks off to explore the Continent.

SWAP helps with the initial travel paperwork, books you in a hostel until long-term accomodations can be found and orients you to the subtleties of the local job market. With an office at most major destinations, they can provide resource information, advice, and a social network for meeting other SWAPers.

On the surface, these services seem valuable if not essential. But for those who are also apprehensive about the program's non-refundable $175 registration fee, the SWAP experience should be viewed with a grain of scepticism.

"When I look at how much money I paid into that program, and how little service I actually got out of it, I can't help but think that I've been taken for a ride," says Dalhousie student Kevin Boyd, a SWAP '88 participant.

"I'm not accusing them of stealing or anything, but there's no doubt in my mind that they could have used my money far more effectively."

It's Day 3. The knot of foul-tempered, backpacked SWAPers standing around with you waiting for "the tube" have finished their two booked days at the hostel, and you have all been booted to make room for the next batch of SWAPers. Squatter's rights mean squat in the assembly line-like world of youth hostelling.

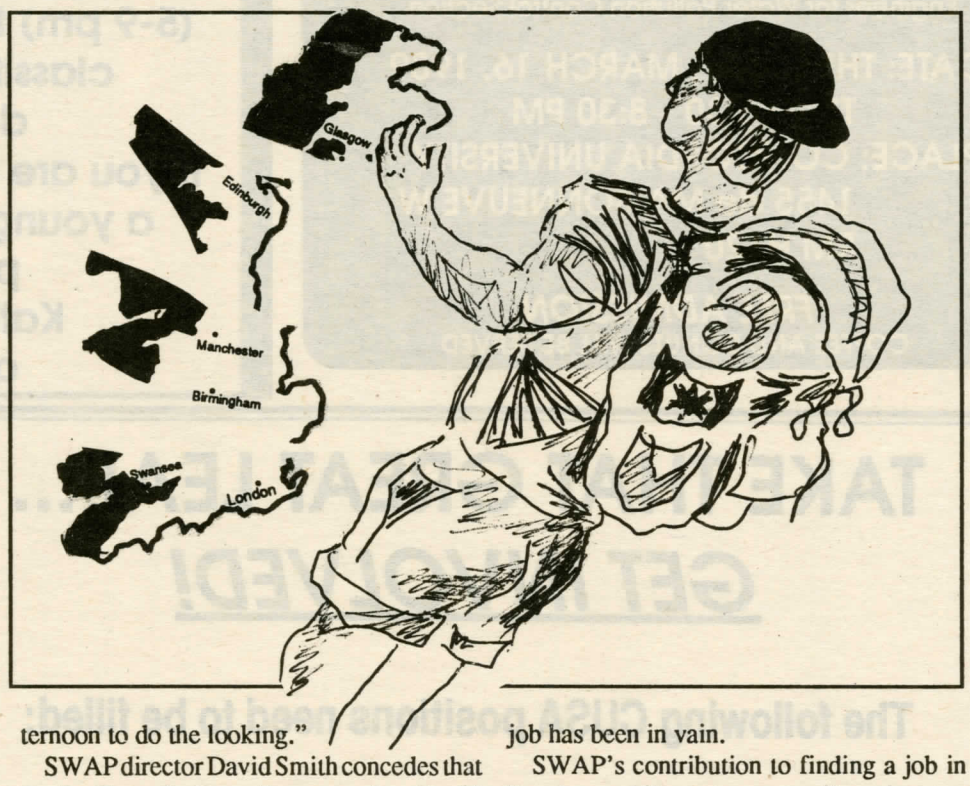
You would have preferred spending the day apartment-hunting, but even if you had any luck, you probably wouldn't be able to move in right away. You'd be right back where you are now — on the street.

Participants in SWAP are given two nights reserved and prepaid lodgings, usually at the Earl's Court youth hostel in London's dingy district of the same name (total value approximately $15 Cdn.)

What SWAP's brochure fails to mention, however, is that these two days are insufficient time to negotiate London's ruthless rental market.

While the Students Work Abroad Program has been hailed by many as a travel breakthrough, more and more students are viewing SWAP with a grain of skepticism

"At least half of the SWAPers staying at Earl's Court with me couldn't find a flat before they were kicked out," says University of Victoria student Alison Ross. "I think we all expected apartment-hunting to be tough in a crowded city like London, but we certainly expected to have more than one afternoon to do the looking."



SWAP director David Smith concedes that Earl's Court is "heavily over-subscribed," but thinks this shortage is inevitable in May, when 80 per cent of SWAP participants arrive.

"I'd prefer to see more staggered arrivals, but airfares take a major leap in early June."

SWAP's literature regarding apartment hunting is probably one of the best examples of how deceptive carefully worded brochures can be. We are told that "SWAP has an arrangement with London's largest accomodations service (free to the participants) to assist in finding a short-term flat."

This "arrangement" is in fact free of charge to all prospective renters in the London area, since rental agencies charge their commission to the owner and not to the tenant. The only effort expended on the part of SWAP staff is that of giving out the agency's address.

London's market for casual labour is rich, but unabashedly racist. In London's culture, you're either a local, a tourist, or an immigrant, and Ray's distinct Quebecois accent has labelled him as "immigrant."

Despite his work experience and his studies in English translation at Laval University, in Quebec City, Ray's scarch for a waitering job has been in vain.

SWAP's contribution to finding a job in London, while not necessarily misrepresented, is at best irrelevant. On finally finding an apartment in London, participants are invited back to the SWAP office for a "job-talk" — a short lecture in which program staff divulge their collectively hoarded secrets to unlocking the London job market.

Among the gems of information revealed in this lecture are profound revelations like which newspapers to find want ads in, and how to dress for an interview.

SWAP also offers a seemingly convenient safety net to job-seekers in the form of a guaranteed job interview within five days of your request. What this option fails to address is the fact that most people return to the SWAP office for advice not because they can't find work, but because they can't find reasonable work.

In London's bloated job market, literally anyone can find hamburger-flipping work of the variety that SWAP will arrange you, but the challenge that SWAP seems unable to cope with is finding work that provides you with enough money and dignity to survive in one of the world's most expensive and inhospitablecities.

This is particularily true for the large contingent (300 in 1988) of participants from Quebec. "I feel really sorry for all the Quebecers who end up out here," confides a member of the SWAP London staff. "Unless they're very lucky, they end up ghettoize into the worst possible working environments."

However Smith blames much of this difficulty on the poor English ability of some Quebecois who participate in SWAP. "Travel Cuts offices in Quebec try to ensure that (SWAP participants) have a working knowledge of English, but many unilingual francophones get through the net, as it were," he says.

One of the most useful services thrown into the SWAP package is the tax exemption status which has been arranged with the British government for participants in SWAP and similar programs.

In a country where the lowest tax bracket is 25 per cent, this bonus undoubtably offsets the cost of SWAP's registration fee, but it is only applicable to participants who will be spending less than 12 weeks living in England. Participants in SWAP Japan, Australia, and New Zealand are not eligible for tax exemption or refund.

SWAP also takes credit for helping the participant through the bureaucratic tangle of securing a working holiday visa, though their effort is limited to handing out the documentation, and later forwarding it to the British Consulate. Working holiday visas can theoretically be obtained by any eligible applicant whether enrolled in SWAP or not (cost: $44), but the consulate will occasionally reject non-SWAP applicants.

The lowest common denominator that becomes apparent among the services offered by SWAP is that few if any of them require a lot of money to implement. According to Smith, 100 of the $175 registration fee is spent on direct services to SWAP participants, but aside from the prepaid hostel booking and the working holiday visa (combined cost $59), these services are of questionable use.

Where does this leave potential SWAPer? Despite SWAP's many flaws, tax-exemption is the element which in the end makes SWAP the unavoidable choice of London travellers like University of Victoria student Warren Smith.

"Don't get me wrong," he says, "I think that on the whole SWAP was a supreme waste of time — but considering the four or five hundred dollars I would have spent in taxes over there, I don't see how I had much choice.

"London was great — it was the time of my life. London was also terrible. That's the kind of experience you have to expect when you work overseas — taking the good with the bad — that's how you grow as a human being. I just wish SWAP had been responsible for more of the great times, rather than the terrible ones."

- Canadian University Press

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continued from page 6

cept, of course, in social studies or psychology. Applicants may be concupiscent and/or bisexual but not leftists, feminists or other victims of social diseases. Box 397 Roxboro H9B 2T8

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Toots' reggae roots

by Michael Farrow

Toots and the Maytais opened up that mixed arena of soul and culture called reggae last Wednesday at Cafe Campus.

When I apprehensively asked the lead singer, Toots Hibbert, what reggae is, he replied "Calypso is Trinidadian, rock'n'roll is U S of A and reggae is Jamaica, man."

Toots has been a part of the reggae scene ever since it's genesis. Now, their latest album, *Toots In Memphis*, has been nominated for an Emmy.

The night got underway in a usual 'reggae late' fashion with a local band, the Swinging Relatives. They gave a tight performance of consistent ska and reggae. Nevertheless, by the end of the set, the crowd seemed to lose its focus in anticipation of the main attraction.

Once the Maytais heated up, the audience tuned in again. Toots' jubiliant efforts resulted in an enthusiastic sweaty crowd bathing in uncontained energy. He explained his intense relationship with the crowd when he said to them, "I'm the teacher and you're the student."

The band has been on the road in North America for the past three months, appearing on both David Letterman and MuchMusic. Yet, their swiftly-paced schedule wasn't evident during the two hour nonstop performance by Toots.

By 5:30 the next morning, the Maytais were off to Portland, Oregon to continue their journey of spreading a soul and cultural mix with its roots deep in Jamaica... reggae.

In their music and in person, Toots and the Maytais lucidly express an introspective outlook that we expect from people with years of experience. This straightforwardness does have its place. After stripping away all the triviality of the world, you'll find reggae. Its informality brings an intimacy to many, who leave their stoic selves behind.

Another talented Maytais is guitarist Teenie Hodges who collaborated in writing a few songs, such as *Love and Happiness* for their latest album. He will be performing in Vancouver from June second to July eighteenth to do thirteen one-hour gigs through Arcturus Productions.

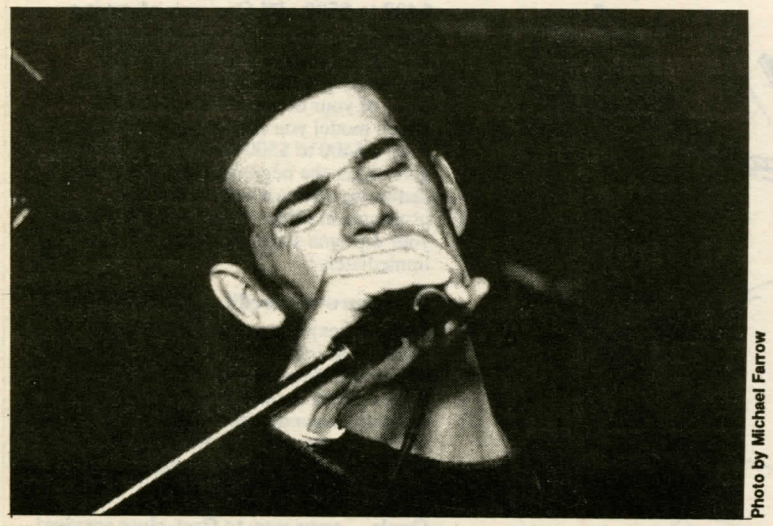


Photo by Michael Farrow

The Swinging Relatives, opening act for *Toots and the Maytais*.

Photo by Michael Farrow

Reggae from Jamaica: Toots of *Toots and the Maytais*, at Cafe Campus.

Drum children

by Mitch Albert

KODO is returning to Montreal. The Japanese percussion ensemble is in its eighth year of existence under that name, which means both "Children of the Drum" and "Heartbeat" — reflecting KODO's artistic credo of playing the drums "purely, with the heart of a child," as well as evoking the "sound of a mother's heartbeat as heard and felt from within the womb".

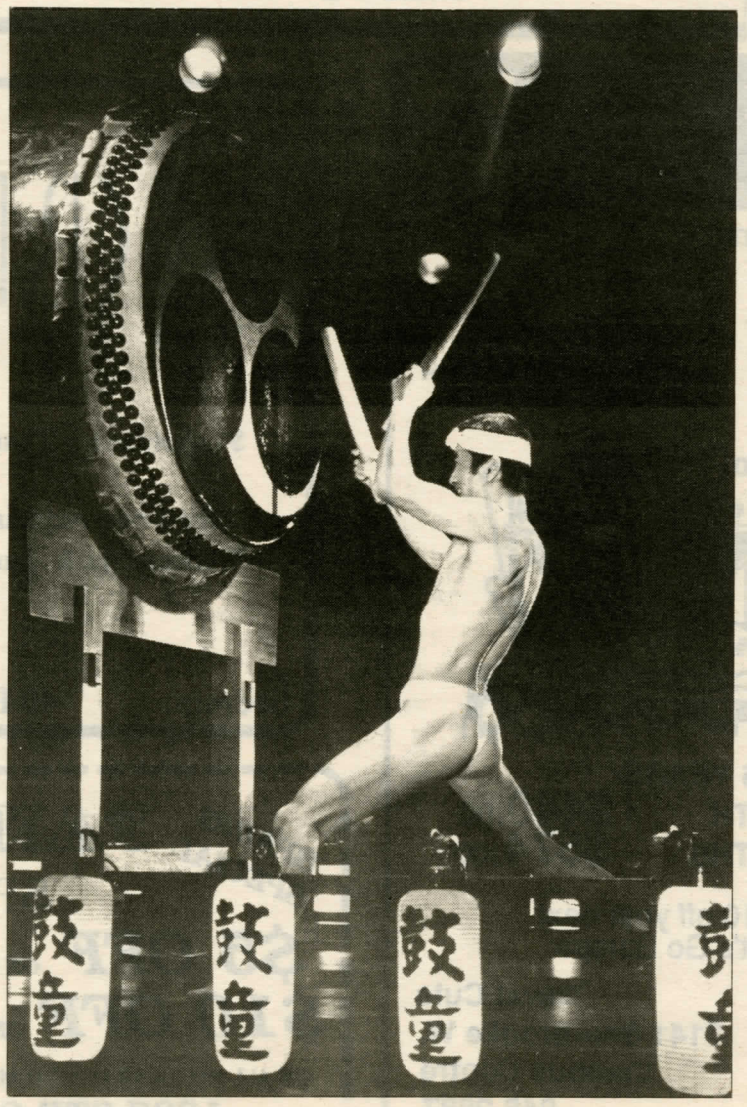
KODO represents something as beautiful and refreshing as it is unique: a total devotion to an art that in itself contains layer upon layer of symbolic and personal meaning. KODO's members have lived communally on the island of Sado, in the Sea of Japan, for fifteen years. They train daily, perfecting their performance acumen as well as maintaining the athletic-level strength and stamina required for their intense shows.

These "samurai of percussion" have gained vigorous worldwide acclaim for their ascetic, enthralling performances. Sold-out audiences on three continents have been left stunned and "suffocated" by the power of KODO's music, emotional energy, choreography, and modern theatrical presentation.

The music is derived not only from a painstaking selection of traditional taiko drums (including the imposing, 900-lb. "o-daiko"), but includes shamisen, shinobue, and other Japanese instruments as well.

KODO

A KODO concert is a mystical experience, a rare and cathartic event as perfect as the natural harmony in which these performers revel. KODO will be performing at Theatre St. Denis, March 16-17. Info: 849-4211.



KODO drumming spectacle coming to Montreal.

FRINGE

Premiere screening — of Australian Dennis O'Rourke's latest film, *Cannibal Tours*; live music by *Karen Young $ Friends*. A benefit evening for the Social Justice Committee of Montreal at Le Rialto (5723 Parc, 933-6797) Tuesday, March 14, 7pm. $5

Laymen Twaist — alternative band plays at Cafe Campus (3315 Queen Mary, 735-1259) on Wednesday, March 15, 9pm. $3

French choreographer — meeting with Dominique Bagouet at Maxwell Cummings Auditorium (1379 Sherbrooke W, 287-1423) Thursday, March 16, noon. $3

Renowned pianist — Louis-Philippe Pelletier plays a program of *Schoenberg*, *Max Reger* and *"the 12 études"* at Pollack Hall (555 Sherbrooke W. Reservations: 284-0864) on Thursday, March 16, 8pm. Free.

Drag theatre — Buddies in Bad Times presents Sky Gilbert in *Possible Scenarios For the Rest of My Life* at Playwrights' Workshop (4001 Berri, 2nd floor, 843-3685) Friday, March 17, 8:30pm. $5

CHEAPSTUFF

Women on women — several women's photography that represents their visions of women, both literal and interpretative. *The Sacred and The Profane* exhibit at the Concordia Women's Centre (2020 Mackay, 848-7431) Monday - Thursday, 1:30 - 6pm, until April 5.

Uncommon vision — of death in *Le rectangle-rose*, an exhibition of Christines Palmiéri latest paintings at l'Espace Go (salle II, 5066 Clark, 271-5381) until March 29.

aRTS

Revisiter le modèle — art by Suzanne Giroux at P.R.I.M. (3981 St. Laurent, #310, 849-5065) until April 2.

Concordia art gallery — currently running two shows. Kathleen Munn & Edna Taçon's *New Perspectives on Mondernism in Canada* and Tim Zuck's *architectonics*. Until April 8.

Exhibition and book — *The Zone of Conventional Practice and Other Real Stories*, an exhibition of 15 artists at Optica (3981 St. Laurent, #510, 287-1574). Part I runs until April 2.

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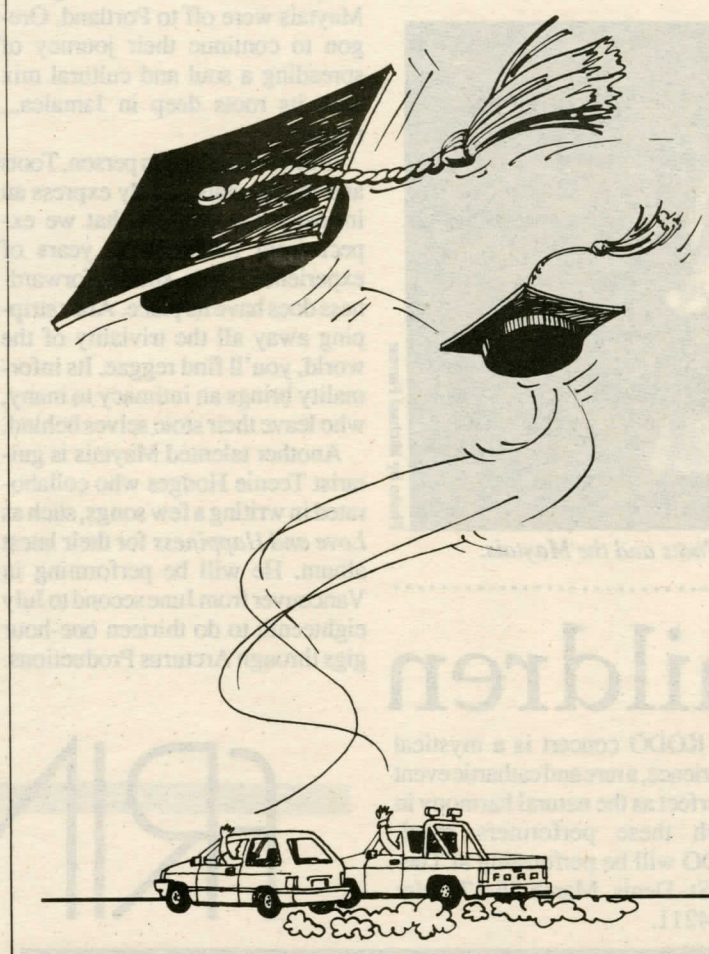

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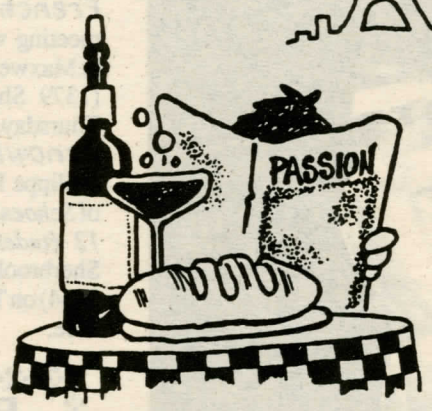

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Sports

We sweep ski finals

photo by Shane Mahood

Simon Zarzour spills out.

by Shane Mahood

The curtain fell on the 1989 Universitaire de Ski Circuit this weekend and it was Concordia who came out on top to finish what was to be the team's best season ever. Both the men's and women's team won their combined slalom and giant slalom (GS) events.

The last time both teams won was in 1984 at McGill. What Concordia can boast about five years later is that the competiton back then was not even close to what it is now.

"To win both the men's and women's combined events when the talent is so much better than it was last year let alone five years ago, makes this victory even sweeter," said Concordia's acting captain, Stephanne Rivard.

Concordia's women's squad who won last year's combined events repeated the same by leaving McGill 139 points behind them in second place. The men's team for the first time finished in first place with 99 points in front of second place University of Montreal.

Concordia secured the championship on their "home hill", Val Saint-Come, the site of their training camp held each year in early January. With the cold days of January far behind them, the sun-filled Friday proved to be a perfect day to end a great season for all of the universities involved.

Concordia's Roseanne Gamache continued to dominate right up to the last race. Gamache and Scheib were consistently providing a one two punch and finished that way in the overall standings. Gamanche took the women's gold while Schieb the silver.

Gamache finished 2nd in Friday's G-S and first in Saturday's slalom event. Scheib placed 3rd in the G-S and was on her way to perhaps a 2nd place finish in the slalom but fell midway through the second of Saturday's race.

"The course proved to be more difficult than any this year, it was not well set. The conditions were excellent even though it was man made snow," Rivard said.

Gamache has been the top women's seed all year.

Her talent was enough to get a birth on the national team when she was 18. But her racing experience began ten years prior to that. Gamache started at the age of eight which lead her to the Quebec team at age 15.

Gamache left the national team to attend the commerce program at Concordia. "I stopped school to race nationally but I realized it was a better investment to attend school," she said.

She compared the difference of racing nationally to the university level.

"It's completely different. There is less tensioon which makes for more fun. You are also racing less for yourself and more for the team with the university circuit"

Scheib who retires from the team with her best overall finish ever, might not have been able to complete her last race but she can certainly keep her head high. "I was on my way to finishing an excellent race. I felt really good but somehow lost my balance at the top of the second pitch." Scheib was not the only racer to go down at this spot, about six others followed suit.

Last year Scheib did not place in the top three but that was quickly turned around this year.

"Renata has been far more consistent this year with strong solid finishes. I think she gained a lot of confidence racing in Europe on the university exchange program," said Rivard.

The men's team was lead by Robert Seguin and Mark Scheib. Seguin ended this season taking the gold as he won the men's slalom and G-S combined. Both he and Schieb improved on their standings from last year. Seguin moved from third place overall and Schieb moved up a couple of spots to finish in fourth.

"Seguin and Scheib were the building force behind our wining the gold overall," according to Rivard.

Seguin narrowly managed to hang on to tthe gold. Benoit Reiardeau finished only one point behind the absent Seguin from the last race. Seguin is competing in the World University Games held in Bulgaria. If Reiardeau had been a split second faster in Saturday's race, the gold would have been his.

Schieb placed fourth overall in a year that saw him place consistently in the top ten. This is Schieb's last year also, the family combination well be leaving the team. Mark finishes with his best placement ever. Rivard felt that no one could replace the Scheib's at the moment; he will wait tell next year to find out. "They were the heart and soul of the team foor so long."

Rivard also pays heed to the so called "backpacker's" of the team. They are the ones who are there to pick up points for the team by placing in the top 26 for the women and the top 36 for the men.

The "backpacker's" are made up of the likes of Leslie Clement, who had finishes in the top 15 and 10, Beth Hamilton, JoAnne Marshall and Pascal Savard.

On the men's side, the additions of Chris Klotz and Martin Lebeau and the high ranking of Stephanne Rivard, James Connacher both top 15 racers, helped fill out the strength of the men's squad. Clement, a 2nd year vetren, said that "all the racers from last year have improved on the ranking. Therefore if the top racers fail to get points, the 'backpacker's' would be their to keep Concordia in the running."

The ski team has run an as organized unit this year that is self sufficient — in it's funding, seperate from the school, — in talent, rich. But the most important part is the family atmosphere and the support given to one another. Result: a championship team.

photo by Shane Mahood

Roseanne Gamache in a golden run.

photo by Shane Mahood

Andre Choquet gives a smile.

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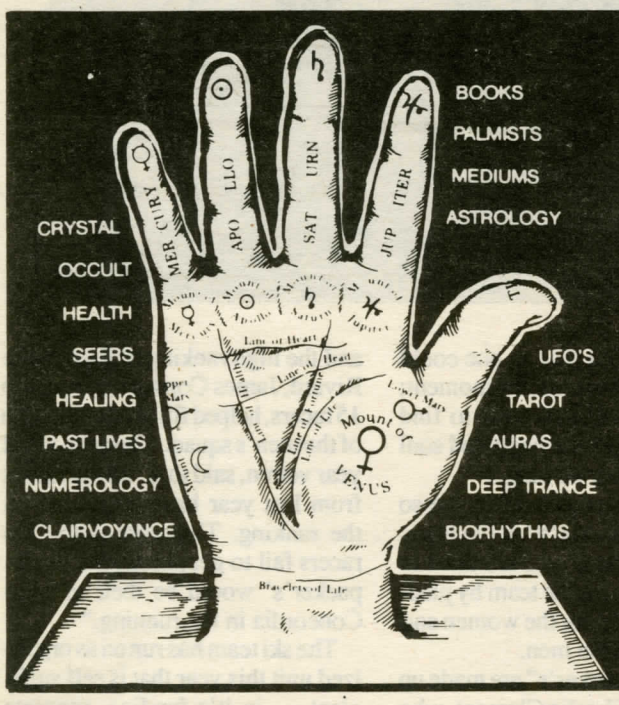

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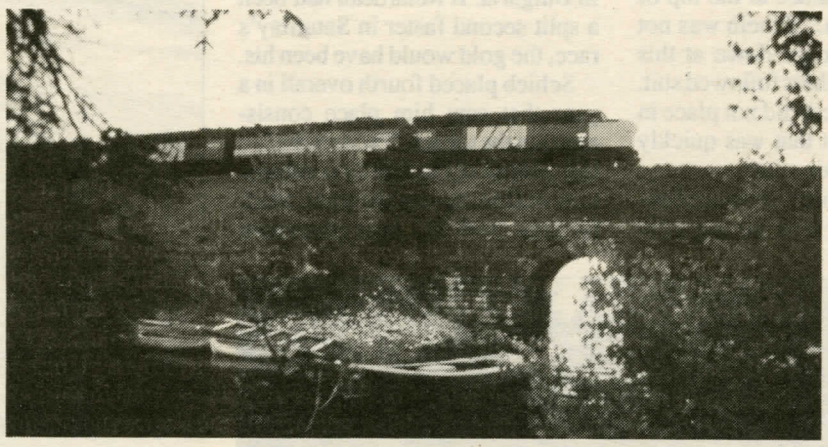

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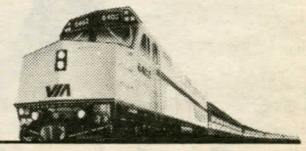
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